



Don BENTON

Winter 2005

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Standing Committees:

Financial Institutions, Housing
and Consumer Protection,
ranking Republican;
Governmental Operations
and Elections

Dear neighbors:

Happy New Year!!! The 2005 legislative session is up and running.

I want to start by thanking you for your support and concern for our community. This session poses many challenges for Washington, including a \$1.8 billion budget problem. I look forward to confronting these challenges head on, but I need your help.

Please take a minute to fill out the following survey, and let me know what issues are most important to you. Knowing what most defines you, your values and priorities will help me to better represent you in Olympia. And, as always, I welcome calls, e-mails and visits to Olympia during session.

It is an honor and privilege to represent you again for four more years.

Sincerely,

Senator Don Benton

Would you like to receive updates from me throughout session?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes
☐ ☐ 2) No

If so, please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP _____

Phone _____ (not required)

E-mail _____ (not required)

I Want To Know What You Think

When this questionnaire is completed, please fold and tape it shut, exposing the return panel, and affix proper postage. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these important issues.

Questionnaire Instructions:

Record your responses by shading the entire circle of your answer.

Shade circles like this: ☒
Not like this: ☐

Budget

Based on current forecasts, the state is looking at roughly a \$1.8 billion problem in the 2005-07 budget. This projection assumes the state continues all current services and fulfills funding for such items as:

- state employee pay raises as a result of collective bargaining,
- Initiative 732, the cost of living adjustment for teachers,
- Increased higher education enrollments, and
- enhanced funding for Initiative 728 to lower class sizes in our schools.

This figure, however, does not address the continued cost growth of the state's pension system, health care benefits, increased student and inmate populations and other human service caseloads. These costs are growing at a far greater rate than tax revenues.

How would you suggest we approach this serious budget problem?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Raise taxes, don't reduce any public services
- ☐ ☐ 2) Rely mostly on tax increases with modest reductions in public services
- ☐ ☐ 3) Raise taxes modestly, rely mostly on reductions in services
- ☐ ☐ 4) Don't raise taxes, reduce public services

Comments:

Transportation

Do you believe that the HOV lane on I-5 in Vancouver has been effective in relieving traffic congestion?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes
- ☐ ☐ 2) No
- ☐ ☐ 3) I don't know

Do you have any other ideas on how to relieve traffic congestion?

Income tax

With respect to the issue of an income tax, the following most closely reflects my position:

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) I generally favor the concept of a state income tax
- ☐ ☐ 2) I could support a state income tax to replace the sales tax
- ☐ ☐ 3) I am opposed to a state or local income tax under any circumstances
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Government size

With respect to the relationship between government size, taxation and spending, the following best reflects my position:

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) State government is too big and should be reduced in size, accompanied by reductions in taxes, spending and services
- ☐ ☐ 2) The present size, scope and involvement of state government is just about right
- ☐ ☐ 3) State government should be increased in size, accompanied by increases in taxes, spending and services
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Gun rights

Do you believe in a citizen's right to bear arms?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes, with no exceptions
- ☐ ☐ 2) Yes, with certain restrictions
- ☐ ☐ 3) No, it is unnecessary for citizens to own guns

Comments:

Education

School levies currently require a 60-percent supermajority to protect property owners from tax increases.

Which of the following changes would you make to property tax levies for our schools?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) None, I like the 60-percent requirement
- ☐ ☐ 2) Reduce the requirement to 50 percent, but only if the levy election is held during a general election when voter turnout is at its greatest
- ☐ ☐ 3) Reduce the requirement to 50 percent and hold the election anytime; voter turnout is not important

What are your ideas on how we can improve the education of our schoolchildren?

Election process

This year's governor's race was so close that results were not determined for nearly three months after the election.

Which of the following do you most believe would provide definitive election results at an earlier date?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by elections officials by midnight on Election Day
- ☐ ☐ 2) Votes do not count if election directions are not followed
- ☐ ☐ 3) Election certification after one machine recount

Do you have any other ideas that would make our election process run more smoothly?

Family values

Do you support a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes
- ☐ ☐ 2) No, but I support civil unions
- ☐ ☐ 3) No
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Parental rights

Should a parent be notified if their minor child is seeking an abortion?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Parents should be notified under any circumstances
- ☐ ☐ 2) A judge should have the power to bar parental notification under certain circumstances
- ☐ ☐ 3) Parents should not be notified if the minor does not want them to be
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Should a parent have the right to listen in to their minor child's phone conversations?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes
- ☐ ☐ 2) Yes, but only with the child's permission
- ☐ ☐ 3) No
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Property rights

Should government be required to pay property owners just compensation whenever an action by government, such as imposing regulatory restrictions, causes a reduction in the owner's property value?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes, full compensation should be paid
- ☐ ☐ 2) Yes, some compensation should be paid
- ☐ ☐ 3) No compensation should be paid
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Criminal sentencing

Do you support tough, mandatory sentences without loopholes for persons convicted of violent felonies such as murder, armed robbery, rape, assault, kidnapping and arson?

Voter 1 Voter 2

- ☐ ☐ 1) Yes
- ☐ ☐ 2) Yes, with different standards for juveniles
- ☐ ☐ 3) No
- ☐ ☐ 4) I don't know

Comments:

Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.

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Survey Enclosed

Senator Don Benton

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Olympia, WA 98504-0417



Of the following, which is most important to you?

Voter 1 Voter 2

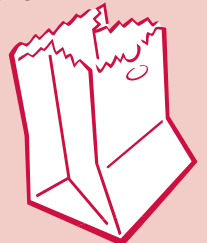
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 1) Economy and taxation |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 2) Transportation |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 3) Education |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 4) Moral issues |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 5) Public safety/Law enforcement |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 6) Government growth |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | 7) Other: _____ |

Again, thank you for sharing you opinions and comments
with me about these very important issues.

DISTRICT DAY

**Please join me in Olympia on Tuesday, February 22.
Bring a brown bag lunch.**

Call my office at (360) 786-7632 to express your interest.
If there is enough interest, I will arrange for
you to take a tour of your newly
renovated Capitol building.



Senator Don Benton
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